



Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

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April, 1957

LITTLE KNOWN NEW JERSEY

with **GEORGE REGENSBURG**

When George Regensburg was in the 7th grade, the class assignment one day was to see how many birds could be identified that afternoon. His total: one! For it took him all afternoon to identify his first red-eye vireo, using a 10¢ store bird book and a 40¢ telescope.

But the interest in wildlife continued. And at 15 he was permitted to travel from New Jersey by bus, alone, to visit an Audubon Sanctuary at Lake Okeechobee, Florida. After a seven mile walk to Warden Chandler's home, he spent three days on the great lake and the Florida prairie. It was then that he learned how others were recording their wildlife experiences in motion pictures. The actual inspiration to go and do likewise came the following winter, back home, when he attended a film program by Karl Maslowski, whose example he has followed, in becoming an Audubon Screen Tour lecturer. Although Mr. Regensburg has traveled widely photographing in the west and south, his real interest lies in his native state of New Jersey where he grew up in the town of Haddonfield.

During four years in the Pacific Theater of World War II with the U. S. Coast Guard, the plan for his New Jersey motion picture film was formulated. And while getting his college degrees he started gathering film for his interesting documentary.

When he is not busy teaching at Trenton, writing, or lecturing, Mr. Regensburg, often accompanied and assisted by his wife, is actively afield taking motion pictures in color, adding to our store of knowledge of this world we live in.

Beyond the dark cloud's silver lining—beyond the massive industrialization which is the impression most people carry away

from their speedy trips enroute through New Jersey to or from somewhere else—beyond the densely populated urban areas, lies one of the most beautiful of all the states. After a brief look at New Jersey as too many people picture it, come with George Regensburg to the state's vast area of outdoor beauty—the fabulous "pine barrens" where cannon balls were once made from bog iron during the Revolutionary War. Along the banks of its delightful streams, their crystal waters strained amber as they course through ancient cedar roots, find rare orchids growing in secluded secret bogs, and thrill to the beauty of the bird and animal life.

Visit the northern end of the state where streams run swift and clear; where a sudden storm may arch a beautiful rainbow over a gleaming lake. Go to the Jersey coast where vast salt bays and meadows harbor a wealth of wildlife, while across the dunes are birds of the beaches, nesting just out of reach of the booming surf.

A marsh hawk quartering back and forth across the meadows . . . turtle laying eggs . . . spider catching its dinner . . . duel of sandpipers . . . all these and many more make "little known New Jersey" a most interesting state indeed as pictured in this highly educational and entertaining film.

BLUE CROSS FOR THE BIRDS

by **R. K. KIRKPATRICK**

It all began one day in February 1956 when a female cardinal dived into our picture window, breaking her neck and dying soon after. Mr. Earl Hath told us then, that there is nothing one can do. If the bird doesn't die of a broken neck, wing or of internal injuries, the shock of the accident brings on pneumonia and the bird dies anyway. At this time my wife and I wondered if something could be done to remedy this situation.

Our next incident occurred on Thursday, July 21, 1956 when a yellow-billed cuckoo hit a neighbor's window. She had heard a crash an half-hour previous to looking out the window, thinking that one of the youngsters had thrown a ball against the pane. But on the patio was a bird on its back, feathers disarranged. Startled and not knowing what to do she called us and asked that we come get the bird. It was in all 45 minutes from the time the bird was hurt until we had put it in a sewing basket filled with Easter grass. We feel this time interval important to note because of later reasoning. It was evident by palpation that the bird had no broken bones. However with eyes closed, feathers fluffed, and watery, mucous discharge, there was an indication of either internal injuries or shock.

Since treatment of internal injuries would be impossible, we decided to try to preclude the end result of shock, i.e., pneumonia, by beginning treatment for that condition immediately. The bird was placed in the sewing basket nest and covered to keep it immobilized and warm. Then after approximating its size and calculating the mg/kg dose of the only suitable antibiotic on hand, given one dose of PEDIATRIC ILOTYCIN (Erythromycin) every two hours. This dosage was given more often because of the high body temperature of the bird.

After 5 or 6 hours there was some indication of improvement, feeble attempts to fly, left eye open, so thought some kind of nourishment was in order. Again this posed a problem; according to reference books the patient was an insect eater and particularly fond of hairy caterpillars. None of these were in our larder, so compromised on a mixture of boiled milk and Pablum, fortified with Zymodrops, (Vitamin Concentrate.) Then we wondered how to make this diet acceptable to the bird. Recalling in John K. Terres book, "Songbirds in Your Garden," a case of using a child's paint brush to feed birds, thought this the nearest approach to a caterpillar. After a couple of forced feedings given hourly, the bird seemed to accept both the concoction and the method of administration.

After about 10 hours we could see there was decided improvement, puffiness was subsiding, and now both eyes were partially opened.

Maintaining this routine for two days, "warmth, quiet, regular feeding and medication" brought the bird back to its normal appearance.

At the time of these feedings a few minutes of gentle stroking its crown seemed to lull its fears so that it would sit on our hand quietly without attempting to escape.

Not having the proper photo equipment, we proudly conveyed our convalescent to Clara Kierstead to be photographed, then to

LETTERHEADS

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the Haths for inspection, where it was banded by James Jackson. Bird was released on Sunday, July 24th, in woods back of our home. It returned frequently to site of release until migration.

Our next visitor was an Indigo Bunting whose only need was food. His taste ran to hard boiled egg yolk with milk and Zymo-drops.

A fledgling Robin was next, who much to our amusement would have preferred to exist on nothing but the Vitamin drops. A glimpse of the dropper and his mouth would fly open.

December 8th brought us our next casualty. About 11:00 a.m. heard the crash at our dining room window. Looking out, spotted a European Tree Sparrow lying in the snow. On recovery first thought it was dead, then discerned faint heart beat, and within 5 minutes had it in a basket nest under cover, warm and quiet.

After about an hour, eyes were open but heart beat still sluggish. Began medical treatment with one drop of PEDIATRIC ERYTHROCIN (Erythromycin), and followed the same procedure as with the cuckoo. Response was much faster, probably due to shorter period of exposure. In two days had made evidently complete recovery, was photographed and released.

With Eva's premedical education, my own as a Pharmacist, both with some hospital experience, we have with the encouragement and urging of Earl and Connie Hath, decided to continue with these feeble, fumbling efforts toward "Wild Bird, Blue Cross."

We would be glad to receive any information regarding experiences of others along this line.

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

April 27—Harris Teachers College Ornithology Class at the August A. Busch Wildlife area, Weldon Springs, Missouri, 8:00 a.m.

May 18—Warbler Walk at Creve Coeur . . . Go with the area's leading warbler lister . . . Beulah Bedell. Meet at refreshment stand at bottom of hill . . . 8:00 a.m. SHARP.

May 25—Harris Teachers College Ornithology Class . . . Meet at refreshment stand at Creve Coeur at 8:00 a.m. Class members only.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY

The St. Louis Audubon Society

Earl H. Hath.....President

James F. Comfort.....Editor

Mrs. J. Marshall Magner.....Executive Secretary

HAVE YOU ANOTHER HOBBY?

With more and more leisure time, today's young people have more hobbies. One of them is philately, the saving of stamps, but it is a hobby of tremendous variations. Even the wealthy stamp collector has long since given up the idea of securing a copy of every stamp in the world, so most collectors turn to "Topicals," where they collect stamps of a desired variety. Some collect stamps depicting only sports, some like stamps showing only maps and some romantic souls have collections depicting ships. We know a man who has a collection consisting entirely of 13¢ stamps.

The "Topical" we like best ourselves represents a collection of stamps depicting only birds, and it may surprise you to know that some hundreds of such stamps have been issued throughout the world by numerous countries. To encourage our teen-age stamp collectors to pursue this particular "Topical," one of our philatelist members has donated as attendance prizes to be given at the April 26 Screen Tour, 3 sets of bird stamps, each consisting of approximately 40 different stamps. These range from an Australian stamp depicting an ostrich, to a German dove of peace! These will be given gratis as attendance prizes on that night to teen-agers in attendance who register for the drawing at the door. The 3 lucky names will be announced just before the Screen Tour lecture.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Audubon Society has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, at a place to be announced at the Screen Tour on April 26.

EVERYTHING IN BOOKS

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COMING EVENTS

SHAWS GARDEN BIRD WALKS

Beginners Field Trips . . . These trips are offered each year primarily for those wishing to learn more about the common birds of our gardens. They are held at Shaws Garden for two Saturdays, April 27 and May 4. Camille and Lois Wamhoff will once again act as leaders for these trips. Meet at the Tower Grove Entrance at 8:00 a.m.

* * * * *

FOREST PARK BIRD WALKS

The Annual Bird Walks at Forest Park are probably the one single thing that create more citywide interest than any other event . . . Martin Schweig will again act as overall leader of this event. Walks have been scheduled for the last Sunday in April and the first three Sundays in May. All walks will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will start from The Jefferson Memorial. Each year a fine list of birds is found in the park. If you miss these trips you are likely to be sorry. Mark these dates—April 28, May 5-12-19. Bird with the areas best at Forest Park.

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POSSUM TROT PICNIC

The Annual Picnic at the world famous Possum Trot farm will be held May 11. Len and Ginnie Hall have once again made available their beautiful farm for members of the St. Louis Audubon Society and their friends. Dinner will be served for those who wish it. Contact the Secretary, Ernestine Magner, for details and to make reservations. This picnic should be a must. Try to get to the farm by 9:00 a.m. and make a full day of it.

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J. EARL COMFORT

In the St. Louis Area 1957 birding was affected by sub-normal January temperatures which probably gave us several accidental or casual species, 3 of which were first modern record for our region. February had above average temperatures throughout the month with most of the rarities remaining in the vicinity in which they were first discovered. Both months were near normal in precipitation, generally in the form of rain.

Rare species that caused the most excitement were western grebe, Iceland gull, glaucous gull, red-shafted flicker, white-winged junco and chestnut-collared longspur. Concerning the three first records, credit for the identity of the Iceland gull goes to Dick Anderson, the junco to Gene Wilhelm and the longspur to Fred Springer and daughter, Sally.

Some other rare listings since the first of the year have been horned grebe, greater scaup duck, white-winger scoter, duck hawk, Franklin's gull, Bonaparte's gull, Sprague's pipit, spotted towhee and Smith's longspur.

The St. Charles Airport field has become one of our most popular birding spots, yielding the Sprague's pipit and chestnut-collared and Smith's longspurs.

If the August A. Busch Wildlife Area lacks nesting bird species it won't be the fault of various groups and individuals who have diligently worked to make the popular refuge even more enticing. Rex Conyer's boys have repaired or replaced their many bluebird boxes since they were installed several years ago as well as making boxes designed to attract prothonotary warblers, the only local member of this large family that habitually selects cavities for nesting sites. The new boxes will be placed in strategic habitats near water, a must for this species. Jim Comfort has built and put up many boxes which he hopes will attract chickadees, titmice and other woods loving birds.

Bruce Dowling has been instrumental in flooding a large section of woods adjacent to an open lake which serves as a resting area for waterfowl. Many small islands have been set up for Canada geese which have indicated a fairly good nesting population during the new season. There are wood duck boxes for the asking designed for this beautiful rare species and hung up in every suitable water bordering woods.

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L I S T E N A N D L E A R N

A new, interesting and educational nature-study feature is presented on radio station, KFUO, every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. by the St. Louis Audubon Society. The series was begun on March 12 by Mr. Bert Harwell, lecturer for the National Audubon Society Screen Tour series. Next to be presented is a series by Mr. Richard Grossenheider, famous wildlife artist and naturalist. Many other outstanding programs will be heard as other experts appear as guests on this new program.

I hope that our members will avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing these outstanding lecturers on nature.

Sincerely,

Earl Hath, President

**St. Louis Audubon Society
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